

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 161746

VIENTIANE FOR CHARGE ROBERTS. PARIS FOR MARESCA.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: US, LA, MILI, SHUM

SUBJECT: MISSING IN ACTION: VIETNAM AND LAOS

1. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE PROPOSED THAT THE VISIT TO THE HONOLULU CENTRAL IDENTIFICATION LAB (CIL), WHICH HAD BEEN POSTPONED AT SRV REQUEST LAST FEBRUARY BECAUSE OF THE DINH BA THI AFFAIR, BE RESCHEDULED FOR EARLY JULY. WE HAVE AGREED TO THREE WORKDAY VISIT IN JULY 10-14 TIMEFRAME. VISIT WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 27.

2. THIS DEVELOPMENT OFFERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERScore TO THE LAO ONCE AGAIN THE DESIRABILITY OF OBTAINING MIA INFORMATION OR REMAINS. AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY FOLLOWING PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CIL VISIT, YOU SHOULD AGAIN

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RAISE THE MIA QUESTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, POINT OUT THAT THE SRV HAS AGREED TO SEND A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO HAWAII FOR PURPOSES OF STUDYING OUR TECHNIQUES, AND STATE THAT THIS REPRESENTS PROGRESS ON THE MIA PROBLEM. NOTING IMPORTANCE OF MIA'S TO CONGRESS AND PUBLIC OPINION, YOU SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT NOW WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT TIME FOR THE LPDR TO MAKE SPECIAL EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE U.S.

WITH MIA REMAINS/INFORMATION.

3. WE HAVE SCHEDULED AN OFFICE CALL ON DICK HOLBROOKE
BY THE NEW LAO CHARGE KHAMTAN JUNE 28, AT WHICH TIME THE
SAME POINTS WILL BE MADE. VANCE

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